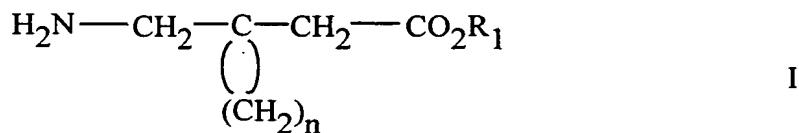


ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method of preventing or treating cartilage damage by administering a GABA analog such as, for example, a compound of Formula

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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is hydrogen or straight or branched lower alkyl, and  $n$  is an integer of from 4 to 6.